

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5
1. A method of expanding capabilities of a palmtop computer with a memory expansion module, comprising:
- 10 coupling the memory expansion module to a processor within the palmtop computer;
- coupling the memory module to an expansion port of the palmtop computer; and
- coupling a sled device to the palmtop computer, so that the sled device is coupled directly to the memory expansion module and to a communication port of the palmtop computer.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the expansion memory module comprises an SD compliant memory module.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the expansion memory module comprises a smartmedia compliant memory module.
- 20 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the expansion memory module comprises a memory stick compliant memory module.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the sled device comprises a music player; and further comprising:
- 25 at said sled device, directly accessing music stored on the expansion memory module.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the music player comprises an MP3 music player.

7. A palmtop computer having enhanced expansion, comprising:
a central processor connected to a bus;
an expansion memory operatively coupled to the bus to provide the central processor with access to the expansion memory;

5 a communication interface operatively coupled to the bus to provide the central processor with communication with devices outside the palmtop computer; and

a connector, operatively coupled to communication interface and to the expansion memory, to permit an external device to communicate with the central processor via the communication interface and to permit the external device to directly
10 access the expansion memory module.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a memory interface connected to the bus and adapting the expansion memory for access over the bus.

15 9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the expansion memory comprises one of an SD compliant memory module, a SmartMedia compliant memory module and a memory stick compliant memory module.

20 10. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the external device comprises a sled device.

25 11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the sled device comprises a music player wherein said sled device directly accesses music stored on the expansion memory.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the music player comprises an MP3 music player.

30 13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the connector comprises one of a circuit board edge connector and a bullet style connector.

14. An expansion device for a palmtop computer, the palmtop computer having a central processor, an expansion memory, a communication interface and a palmtop-side connector, the palmtop-side connector being operatively coupled to the communication interface and to the expansion memory; the expansion device comprising:

an expansion device-side connector suitable for mating with the palmtop-side connector;

an expansion device-side communication interface connected to the expansion device-side connector for communicating with the communication interface of the palmtop computer; and

a memory interface connected to the expansion device-side connector for directly accessing the expansion memory of the palmtop computer.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the expansion memory comprises one of an SD compliant memory module, a SmartMedia compliant memory module and a memory stick compliant memory module; and wherein the memory interface directly accesses the expansion memory module.

16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the external device comprises a sled device.

17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the sled device comprises a music player wherein said sled device directly accesses music stored on the expansion memory.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the music player comprises an MP3 music player.

19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the palmtop-side connector comprises one of a circuit board edge connector and a bullet style connector.

20. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the expansion device-side communication interface comprises at least one of a USB interface, an Ethernet interface, a Serial interface and a SCSI interface.

00671657-003700